

# THE OWOSSO TIMES.

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WHOLE NO. 905.

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## A BAT STORY.

Pennsylvania Man Was Obligated to Fight for His Life.

Jacob Bricker of Rauchtown had quite a unique as well as thrilling experience the other day, which he is at a loss to account for, but has no desire to again repeat, says the Philadelphia Times. Mr. Bricker is a laborer, and on the day in question, feeling somewhat indisposed, did not go to work. He was lounging in his house when he heard a peculiar noise in the third story or attic. Supposing at first that the noise was created by mice and rats frolicking about, he paid little attention to it, but the continued and increasing discordant screeching, combined with the swish of wings and an everlasting pit-pat, as made by birds flying against something, aroused Bricker sufficiently to institute an investigation. Alone he went to the attic and was at once nonplused and astounded to see the small room literally black with bats, flying helter-skelter and attacking every inanimate object in sight. When Bricker first saw the bats he had no thought of self-protection from danger, but imagined they would frighten at his approach and leave. But in this he was mistaken. Hardly had he gotten fairly into the room until the bats, in perfect swarms, flew at him. Their sharp claws and stiff wings as they flew in his face and alighted on his hands made many painful abrasions, and it was with difficulty the man was enabled to secure a short stick, luckily lying near, with which to defend himself. Striking right and left, Bricker went for the mou-like birds, and with every stroke dull thud on the floor told of one less bat. But the birds were in for fight, and the more killed the more it appeared came at the man. Just how long the struggle continued Bricker has no idea of reckoning. It could not have been more than five minutes, but to him it seemed like an hour or more. Finally, when the swarm of bats began to grow manifestly smaller under the sure stroke of Bricker's club, they began to scatter, and with one parting screech took a hasty leave. Covered with blood on face and hands, and suffering no little pain, Bricker took a survey of the room, and for the first time realized the execution he had been able to do. The floor was covered with dead and disabled bats, the latter still screeching, flopping about and endeavoring to get away. These were dispatched as soon as possible and without any mercy, and then the man made a count of the dead birds. He found fifty-three in all, and he is positive that fully twice that many escaped. The bats entered the attic through an open window, but where they all came from is a mystery. There are a number of caves in the immediate vicinity, but they have mostly been explored and very few bats ever noticed. And then the time of their visit being made in daytime is another strange occurrence, as bats habitually fly at night, or after twilight begins to fall. However that may be, and come from where they did, Bricker had fifty-three bats to show for his fight and prove the strange occurrence, and to anyone who may think it a small thing to be attacked by these small birds he is ready to bring assurance that it is not, and can prove it by his badly scratched face and hands.

## AUSTRIAN ROMANCE.

Alleged Marriage of Archduke to the Daughter of an Engineer.

A sensational statement has been disseminated by several Continental newspapers to the effect that the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austrian throne, and who represented the Austrian Court at the queen's jubilee, had been secretly married to one Fraulein Hussman, daughter of an engineer at Koblach. A brother of the lady is a Roman Catholic priest at Ruhrort, and another is a retired cloth merchant at Essen. There was some tendency to suspend judgment before rejecting these reports, which originated at Aix-la-Chapelle, because of the well known romantic propensities of the members of the house of Hapsburg. One of these archdukes married a village postmaster's daughter, another wedded an actress and yet another casting his royal rank to the winds and taking a plebeian station, wedded an Austrian soubrette, and sailed away into oblivion. A very emphatic semi-official denial was promptly issued at Vienna, describing the alleged marriage as "a ridiculous invention." Thereupon the Vienna papers began to busy themselves with inquiries concerning the archduke's movements. Last week, it is stated, his imperial highness passed several days in Styria, and he is now in Hungary, whither he went, according to report, to take part in the reception of the German emperor. As regarding the state of health of his imperial highness, he is said to have struck every one in Hungary with his robust appearance. However, the following extraordinary explanation of the rumors was published in Berlin by the Kreuz Zeitung, a highly responsible conservative paper, which describes that the whole story originated in a barefaced fraud by a designing scoundrel who passed himself off as the Austrian heir presumptive. The supposed archduke addressed himself to the young lady as Dr. Arend, medical assistant, and when established in the family's good graces revealed his pretended imperial status. He persuaded the young lady to go to London to be married. On September 8th she celebrated her birthday in the midst of a large family circle at the house of her brother, a Catholic priest, the future bridegroom also being present. On September 10th the couple disappeared, the young lady leaving a letter, in which she stated she was going into "the wide world." It is feared, adds the Kreuz Zeitung, that the so-called doctor is an agent for procuring girls, since it appears the young sister of his fiancée also, but without success. The missing girl was the possessor of a little fortune of about forty thousand marks in cash, which she had probably taken with her.

## SOLD AT CHURCH.

The Time When Slaves Marketed Melons on Sunday.

"A man would hardly imagine that negroes used to crowd around the front of that elegant church and sell watermelons on Sunday," said H. T. Powell, the well-known banker, recently. He referred to Mulberry Street Methodist church, one of the finest church buildings in Macon, says the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph. "But it is a fact," continued Mr. Powell. "I am not an old man (and everybody in the crowd looked with admiration at his tall, erect figure), but I can remember those scenes as well as if they were yesterday. It was before the war, when all the slave-owners allowed their industrious slaves an acre or so of land on which to raise watermelons or anything they chose. The negroes were given every Saturday afternoon to tend their patches and on Sundays were allowed to hitch a mule to a wagon and take their melons and other produce around to churches, camp meetings or elsewhere and sell them. It was a very common thing to see a man stop at a negro's watermelon pile and select a melon, pay for it and put it in his buggy and drive on home after church; and, indeed, children frequently clubbed in and bought melons from the slaves and ate them during the time between Sunday school and preaching." In those days masters took great interest in the industry and enterprise of their slaves and did everything they could to encourage them. Nobody ever thought of objecting to or interfering with the negroes in their Sunday traffic.

## THE HOLY ALLIANCE.

Alexander of Russia a Man of Religious Mind.

The Emperor Alexander of Russia was a man of a mystical, it may be said a superstitious, habit of mind, deeply impressed with the divine right of kings; and, it must be added, with a corresponding conviction of the obligation to govern according to what he regarded as Christian principles, says the Nineteenth Century. He proposed, therefore, that the sovereigns in congress should enter into a holy alliance, in which each pledged himself personally to rule according to the Christian standard, and to come to the assistance of any other in the case of domestic as well as international difficulty. Lord Castlereagh, as the representative of this country, demurred to a pledge which his sovereign could not undertake independently of parliament. But he desired to avoid all possibility of disagreement with the other powers, and especially not to offend the susceptibilities of a personage who had been so influential in overcoming the common enemy; and after correspondence with Lord Liverpool at home, the prince regent wrote a friendly letter expressing his personal interest and sympathy with the aims of the other sovereigns, while refraining on the ground of constitutional necessity from entering, on his own part, into any obligations such as were proposed. The other powers had no such hesitation. They undertook the sacred duty of crushing trouble at the beginning by lending their forces to put down any movement, whether strictly domestic or not, which threatened to interfere with an established organization. The general outcome of the settlement was a series of guarantees against international aggression, supplemented by the special obligations of the members of the holy alliance to suppress internal disorders.

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so answer but "Yes" to make, save as regards certain medical courses in the north country. Australia, India and Canada also answer "Yes," and Toronto proudly says, "No advantage is granted to men which is not open to women." New Zealand gives practically the same reply. France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Greece, Italy, and of course the United States have almost unbroken columns of "Yes." The great sinners of Europe are Germany, Austria and Russia.

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## TRAVELS OF AN OLD HAT.

From Tropic Mexico to Frigid Alaska and Still Going.

From the Kansas City Star: There drifted into the office of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express in Kansas City was other day an old hat that had seen much of the country. Completely covering its sides, crown and brim, were express tags from Mexico to the Yukon and to Kansas City. Last night it left for New York, and will undoubtedly reach its destination if there remains room to attach the necessary tags.

Inside of the hat, securely wired and sealed, are some photographs—one of Jim Parker, an outlaw, who attempted to "hold up" the Atlantic and Pacific express at Peach Springs, Ariz., last February. He was captured, but escaped, after killing his jailer. He was recaptured and is now in jail at Prescott. There is also the photograph of a dead train robber, made an "angel" by A. C. Summers, an express messenger on the Albuquerque and Los Angeles division of the Atlantic and Pacific railway. The hat was worn by Summers, who started it out for Mexico with the injunction pasted inside for all messengers to attach their stickers and forward, and with the information that the hat would eventually be presented to Mr. McKinley. The hat started for Mexico and came back loaded down with messages, humorous and otherwise, from the agents of the company. To some of the tags are attached with sealing wax Mexican corn husk cigarettes, to others small bottles of pulque and mesquite; a Mexican 43-cent silver dollar is wired to the bottom, also a copper centavo. Nearly all the messages are in Spanish, and there are small photographs of Mexican bull fighters, pulque gatherers and comic pictures from the Mexican papers. There is also a rabbit's foot, a key, wax matches, aluminum tags, tin tops from beer bottles, car seals and tin types. The route the hat took can be traced all through Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and the northwest, back through Nebraska, Iowa, Topeka, Kan., and now to Kansas City. On several of the tags are earnest injunctions to keep the hat well oiled on route. It is an expressman's joke and carries well. Where the old hat will come to a stop it is hard to say, because it is quite likely that when there is no more room left for tags an addition will be sewed on, and it will travel some more.

## CASTORIA.

The little signature of Dr. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

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